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SOVIET UNION MILITARY-ECONOMIC REPORT

Translated from the German Report 8/4

Dated: 14 April 1943

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PREFACE

During the Second World War the German Signal Intelligence Control Center of the Staff of the Chief of Army Signal Service (HNW, LNA) issued a series of reports to show the USSR military-economic situation as reflected in Russian internal plain language traffic. These reports appeared at short, irregular intervals, usually six per month, for the period October 1942-March 1943. Eight FOIA b3a of these reports have been translated and issued by [REDACTED]

It is planned to issue a complete set of translations of the reports beginning with the most recent and moving backward, but omitting those already translated by [REDACTED]. The numbering of the items was added by the translator since FOIA b3a. [REDACTED] did this only in the last eighteen reports, [REDACTED] inclusive. Since the original material was in Russian, an effort has been made when translating the German to determine the original Russian term wherever possible. This is facilitated by the Russian fondness for abbreviations. In these translations into English the probable meaning of the abbreviation will be given in parenthesis the first time it occurs in each report.

FOIA b3a

TOP SECRET  
Security Information

14 April 1943

The Soviet Union

Military-Economic Report 8/4

(Based on domestic radio traffic)

Individual Messages

1.) Food Situation and  
Agriculture

Caucasus and Middle Asia

Tiflis

(1) In March the procurement organizations of Georgia SSR delivered 13,667 tons of potatoes.

(2) In the second quarter the NK for Trade is to deliver the following to Plant "Beriya"

in Poti:

|           |               |
|-----------|---------------|
| 23.1 tons | fish          |
| 25.3 tons | meat          |
| 4.9 tons  | butter        |
| 8.5 tons  | vegetable fat |
| 2.1 tons  | sugar         |

(3) The following repairs were completed in Georgia as of 1 April:

|                     |                    |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| 1828 tractors       | =95% of the plan   |
| 1249 tractor plows  | =83.5% of the plan |
| 3636 drill machines | =68.6% of the plan |
| 213 sowing "        | =65% of the plan   |
| 347 scalping "      | =73.4% of the plan |

Erivan

(4) The Canning Industry requires 3 tons of barley for sowing purposes.

(5) On 1 April Erivan had 10,283 tons of grain including:

|                          |                  |
|--------------------------|------------------|
| Grain Procurement Office | 665 tons flour   |
|                          | 453 tons groats  |
|                          | 480 tons wheat   |
|                          | 60 tons rye      |
|                          | 1740 tons barley |
| Flour Combine            | 4191 tons flour  |
|                          | 322 tons groats  |
|                          | 242 tons wheat   |
|                          | 1535 tons barley |
| Bakery Organizations     | 345 tons flour   |
|                          | 18 tons groats.  |

For consumption in April 2,232 tons of flour are scheduled.

TOP SECRET  
Security Information

(6) The Cannery in Gori turned out 1,000 cans above the scheduled March production.

(7) The Tea Industry in Anazeul (not located) received the following food on 1 April:

|           |              |
|-----------|--------------|
| 16.0 tons | flour        |
| 1.27 tons | groats       |
| 970 tons  | canned goods |

(8) It is noted from messages from Alma Ata that Alma Ata is sending to various oblasti

of Kazakh bread grain for sowing purposes with the expressed warning that it is to be treated as seed grain which must not be used for food purposes. Apparently there is no seed grain in the oblasti or the seed grain has been used for food because of the poor food situation.

(9) From 25-31 March the Tobacco Industry in Tiflis shipped 25 carloads of tobacco.

On 31 March the Wine Industry in Erivan shipped 37 carloads of wine to Moscow.

(10) NK for River Fleet.

Procurement of seed potatoes

| <u>Office</u>           | <u>Quantity</u> |
|-------------------------|-----------------|
| Saratov                 | 400 tons        |
| Molotov                 | 600 tons        |
| Ufa                     | 300 tons        |
| Omsk                    | 50 tons         |
| Tavda, Sverdlovsk Rajon | 20 tons         |

(11) The auxiliary enterprise in Osetrovo cannot undertake the sowing of summer grain

since land and seed grain are lacking.

2.) Metal Supply  
(Caucasus)

Tiflis

(12) Plant "Kirov" requires 55 tons of steel from the plant for metal products in

Magnitogorsk.

(13) The Non-ferrous Metal Industry produced 70 tons of copper products in March.

(14) In the second quarter Plant "Tsentrilit" requires the following:

|        |               |
|--------|---------------|
| 5 tons | section iron  |
| 3      | rolled iron   |
| 10     | sheet iron    |
| 2      | roofing sheet |

(15) The cannery in Oktembryan received the following:

|        |               |
|--------|---------------|
| 7 tons | sheet iron    |
| 16     | section iron  |
| 3      | sheet iron    |
| 3      | iron sleepers |
| 0.3    | steel hawsers |

TOP SECRET  
Security Information

(16) On 28 and 29 March 1,095 tons of ore were loaded on the "Magnitka" in Poti.

Since the beginning of the month 14,900 tons of ore were loaded.

(17) The Metal Supply Office in Erivan could ship only 60 tons of cast iron instead of 174 tons. An additional shipment has been cancelled since cast iron is lacking.

(18) In March the Manganese Trust in Chiaturi shipped a total of 28,432 tons of manganese ore as follows:

|             |                            |
|-------------|----------------------------|
| 22,239 tons | to Magnitogorsk            |
| 4,180 tons  | to Zestafoni               |
| 2,013 tons  | to various peroxide plants |

(19) The March plan for peroxide (2,000 tons) has been completely fulfilled.

Metal Supply of the NK for the River Fleet

(20) The following deliveries are scheduled for April and May:

| <u>Consignee</u>             | <u>Quantity</u> | <u>Type</u>          |
|------------------------------|-----------------|----------------------|
| Upper Volga Steamship Agency | 20 units        | Circular saws        |
| Gorkij                       | 20 tons         | Round metal (faulty) |
| Raznezhe                     | 5.3             | Steel hawsers        |
|                              | 3.4             | Cable                |
|                              | 3.0             | Wire                 |
| Stalingrad                   | 17              | Metal (rolled)       |
| Astrakhan                    | 86              | Sheet iron           |
|                              | 20              | Rod iron products    |
|                              | 150             | Steel hawsers        |
|                              | 1500            | Sheet Steel          |
|                              | 84              | Steel Plate          |
|                              | 14              | Wire tacks           |

Scrap Metal

(21) Various offices and plants in Tiflis, Ufa, Molotov, and Chardzhou are delivering 445 tons of scrap.

3.) Raw Materials and Completed Goods  
(besides metals)

(22) For April 15 carloads of cement have been authorized for Sevan (55 kilometers northeast of Erivan) Construction.

(23) In April 10,000 pieces of raw hide of low quality and size are to be delivered to the Council of the Georgian NK.

TOP SECRET  
Security Information

(24) The Georgian NK for the Food Industry requires 30,000 sacks in the second quarter.

(25) 475 auto tires have arrived in Tiflis.

(26) Erivan. The Armenian NK for Trade is to receive from the Ingur Paper Combine 2 tons of writing paper for the first quarter.

(27) The Armenian Supply Office received 81,520 meters of tarpaulin.

(28) In March the Glass Factory produced 700 large balloons and 28,400 small balloons which fulfilled 142% of the plan.

(29) The Canning Industry requires 3,000 units of type 15I balloons from the Glass Factory in Baku.

4.) Material Supply of the NK for  
the River Fleet

(30) The following were delivered:

| <u>Consignee</u> | <u>Quantity</u>   | <u>Goods</u>  |
|------------------|-------------------|---------------|
| Gorkij           | 100 square meters | Glass         |
| Saratov          | 3 tons            | Nails         |
|                  | 13                | Spanish white |
| Astrakhan        | 9                 | Soap          |
|                  | 15                | Varnish       |
| Molotov          | 0.5               | Red lead      |
| Sverdlovsk       | 1 carload         | Varnish       |
| Semipalatinsk    | 3 tons            | Oil varnish   |
| Krasnoyarsk      | 1.5               | Spanish white |
|                  | 0.5               | Red lead      |
|                  | 2.0               | Varnish       |
|                  | 0.5               | Nails         |
| Khabarovsk       | 1.1               | Gun powder    |
|                  | 15,000            | Detonators    |

(31) Astrakhan requires 3 to 400 kilograms of writing paper, and Molotov 3 tons of Spanish white and 1 ton of red lead.

(32) In the second quarter the Georgian Textile Industry is to ship woolen goods to the following:



TOP SECRET  
Security Information

|               |                       |
|---------------|-----------------------|
| Turkmen       | for 2,000,000 rubles  |
| Uzbek         | for 10,000,000 rubles |
| Azerbaijdzhan | for 1,500,000 rubles  |
| Armenia       | for 1,910,000 rubles  |
| Stalingrad    | for 970,000 rubles    |
| Kalmyk        | for 130,000 rubles    |
| Dagestan      | for 320,000 rubles    |
| Checheno-     |                       |
| Ingush        | for 450,000 rubles    |
| North Osetia  | for 340,000 rubles    |
| Kabardino-    |                       |
| Balkar        | for 220,000 rubles    |
| Stavropol     | for 400,000 rubles    |
| Krasnodar     | for 315,000 rubles    |

(33) On 30 March the cloth factory reported a daily production of 4,665 meters of cloth. Since the beginning of the month 129,560 meters were shipped. Remainder on hand 12,055 meters.

(34) On 1 January 1943 the hospitals of the Georgian SSR had the following linen:

|               |              |
|---------------|--------------|
| 179,059       | sheets       |
| 101,143       | shirts       |
| 104,270       | drawers      |
| 108,154       | towels       |
| 8,809         | pillows      |
| 29,375        | straw pads   |
| 128,583       | pillow cases |
| 76,525        | blankets     |
| 87,293 meters | cotton goods |

(35) NK for River Fleet. There were delivered to the following:

|                               |                        |
|-------------------------------|------------------------|
| Omsk                          | 80 tons flax in fibers |
| Lower Irtysh Steamship Agency | 5 tons binding thread  |
| Lower Volga Steamship Agency  | 120 sets of bed linen  |

#### 6.) Transport Situation

(36) In March the Transcaucasian Railway made available 15,429 railroad cars for military transportation.

(37) The Transcaucasian Railway refuses to remove the damaged railroad cars from the liberated sections along the Ordzhonikidze-Voroshilov stretch. Because of this, great transportation difficulties have resulted. For example, 600 railroad cars are idle along the Derbent-Machachkala stretch.

TOP SECRET  
Security Information

(38) From conversations between Alma Ata and Aktyubinsk it is noted that Aktyubinsk has no transportation facilities at the present time. The trains are not running and the airfields are closed.

7.) Construction

(39) The Waterworks Industry requires the following additional material for "Baksan" Construction:

|               |  |
|---------------|--|
| 2500 tons     | cement                                 |
| 120 tons      | sheet iron                             |
| 40 tons       | narrow gauge rails                     |
| 50 tons       | telegraph wire                         |
| 500 units     | telegraph insulators with supports     |
| 1800          | insulators                             |
| 100           | brass instruments                      |
| 125           | relays                                 |
| 300           | pin insulators                         |
| 13 kilometers | control cable                          |
| 3 units       | magneto-boards "MB" for 30 connections |
| 3             | magneto-boards "MB" for 20 connections |
| 100           | telephones                             |

8.) Reconstruction (Within the NK for the River Fleet

(40) At the present time two three-story houses are being rebuilt in Stalingrad in which the Directorate of the Steamship Agency Lines and its workers are to be housed. Construction work along the banks has likewise begun although, because of the lack of materials and accessories, great difficulties are to be overcome. The Second Reconstruction Division is presently concerned with the building of 4th and 5th landing places.

9.) Compilations

(41) In March the following was spent:

|                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| 4,817,251 rubles | in Tiflis for arms                               |
| 13,000 rubles    | by the Academy in Narashensk in Armenia          |
| 300,000 rubles   | in Sugdidi for building tanks "Kolkhoznik Gruzi" |

10.) Miscellaneous

(42) The NK for Supply in Georgia reports that the fund for invalids in the amount of 63,000,000 rubles, provided by the NK for Finance of the USSR, is not sufficient. Actually 70,000,000 rubles are needed. The debt on 1 April amounts to 5,000,000 rubles. In the second quarter 22,000,000 rubles are needed.